

# meet members



## Alison VanOtterloo

**Job:** Vice president, corporate services & strategy, Pharmacists Mutual Insurance Company, Algona

**Hometown:** Algona

**Alma mater:** University of Northern Iowa

**Professional/community activities:** ISCPA Board of Directors and LEAP Committee, Algona Rotary Club, Algona Community School Foundation Board of Directors, Kossuth County Economic Development Board of Directors

**How I was inspired to become a CPA:** I knew I wanted to work in a business environment but didn't exactly know what or where. I knew being a CPA would open up so many doors and provide for a variety of career options.

**If I weren't a CPA, you might find me:** As a college professor

**What message do you have for high school and college students about a career as a CPA?** It can lead to an unbelievable amount of career options and opportunities. Work hard and dream big!

**How has being a member of ISCPA helped you?** It has given me the ability to network and meet some amazing people. It has also allowed me to have a front seat to what's going on in my profession. I feel informed and empowered because of my involvement with ISCPA.

**What are some of the biggest changes you've seen in the profession?** The use of technology to connect remotely. We used to spend the first half day at an audit client just trying to get everything connected. We brought cords and hubs and all kinds of things with us!

**What are some of your philosophies and principles toward work and life?** Do the little things right and the big things will come.

**What influences or inspirations have helped you in life and in work?** I was raised by a farmer and a teacher. Farming requires you to work 365 days a year – there are no sick days or snow days. Work and life literally have to coincide as one. My mom taught for 40 years and never repeated a lesson in the same way. She taught me to never settle, always find a way to improve.

**What is your most memorable face palm moment?** In our new world of Zoom meetings, I recently walked into a meeting room not knowing they were also on Zoom and stood directly in front of the camera for about five minutes until some brave soul finally said, "Could you please move, all we can see is your butt!"

**Who would you swap places with for a day and why?** Each one of my kids—to better understand them.

**When I have free time:** I like to read a good book, play sports or board/card games with my family.

**I am passionate about:** Continuous learning, service to others and positive daily habits.

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*Alison and her husband Todd live in Algona with their children Casey (14), Taylor (12), Peyton (9) and Drew (7).*

**First job:** Bank teller (besides farm chores)

**People don't know this about me, but:** I am actually an introvert

**I never leave home without:** Right now, a mask

**Favorite food:** Pizza

**Secret talent:** I pride myself on being a little bit weird!

**Three words that best describe me:** Positive, organized, listener

**Last book I read:** "The CEO Next Door" by Elena L. Botelho, Kim Powell

**Favorite quote:** "I can do all things through Him who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13

**Best advice I ever received:** Be humble and hungry...you can always get better

**Best vacation:** Virgin Islands with great friends

**My hero is:** My husband. He has amazing patience, kindness and resiliency.

**Favorite thing about my job:** Constant challenge and variety